

Books of the Week

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ABOUT COSMIC RAYS—John G. Wilson—*Sigma*, 144 p., illus., approx. \$2.65. Written by a British author for the general reader.

AUSTRALIAN JOURNAL OF SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH, SERIES A, PHYSICAL SCIENCES: VOLUME 1, NUMBER 1—N. S. Noble—*Council for Scientific and Industrial Research*, 119 p., illus., \$5.00 per year, \$1.25 single copy. A new medium for the publication of research papers regardless of the country of origin.

AUSTRALIAN JOURNAL OF SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH, SERIES B, BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES: VOLUME 1, NUMBER 1—N. S. Noble, Ed.—*Council for Scientific and Industrial Research*, 162 p., illus., \$5.00 per year, \$1.25 single copy. A new journal devoted to reports of research in various fields of biology. Subscriptions to these two journals should be sent direct to the publisher, 314 Albert Street, East Melbourne, C. 2, Victoria. It may be necessary to pay postage on foreign subscriptions.

THE HARLEM HOSPITAL BULLETIN: Volume I, Number 1—*Harlem Hospital Clinical Society, Inc.*, 44 p., illus., quarterly, \$2.00 per year, single copies 50 cents. The papers included will not be limited to any specialty nor to members of the hospital staff. Correspondence should be addressed to Mrs. Arthur H. Aufses, Editor, Harlem Hospital, 136th St. and Lenox Ave., New York 30, N. Y.

FOODS: PRODUCTION, MARKETING, CONSUMPTION—Jean J. Stewart and Alice L. Edwards—*Prentice-Hall*, 2d ed., 490 p., illus., \$6.35. For those concerned with providing food for families, institutions or communities as well as for students of home economics.

HANDBOOK OF SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL SOCIETIES AND INSTITUTIONS OF THE UNITED STATES AND CANADA—Callie Hull, S. J. Cook and J. R. Kohr—*National Research Council*, 5th ed., 371 p., \$5.00. Useful information about 1,302 organizations in the United

States and 166 in Canada, alphabetically arranged by name of society.

HOW TO CHOOSE AND USE YOUR WASHING MACHINE—*Bureau of Human Nutrition and Home Economics, U. S. Department of Agriculture*, 16 p., illus., paper, free upon request to U. S. Department of Agriculture, Washington 25, D. C. Useful advice to owners and prospective owners of washing machines.

HUMAN NUTRITION—V. H. Mottram—*Williams & Wilkins*, 151 p., illus., \$2.75. Of British origin, this book is intended to meet the crying need for training in dietetics in this "fearsome period of austerity for almost the whole globe."

PREVENTING AND REMOVING MILDEW—HOME METHODS—Margaret S. Furry—*Bureau of Human Nutrition and Home Economics, U. S. Department of Agriculture*, 10 p., illus., paper, free upon request to U. S. Department of Agriculture, Washington 25, D. C. Timely and authoritative counsel on treatment of textiles, upholstered furniture, books, leather, and other household goods.

SECOND REPORT TO CONGRESS ON THE UNITED STATES FOREIGN AID PROGRAM FOR THE PERIOD ENDED MARCH 31, 1948—Department of State—*Govt. Printing Office*, 138 p., illus., paper, 35 cents. Tucked in among the facts and figures of this official report is a letter from 8-year-old Anne-Marie Pocreau of France saying "thank you to all the Americans whom we like very much."

STRUCTURE OF TYPICAL AMERICAN OIL FIELDS: Volume III: A Symposium on the Relation of Oil Accumulation to Structure—J. V. Howell, Ed.—*American Association of Petroleum Geologists*, 516 p., illus., \$4.50. This volume includes fields that are in some way unusual, either in size, type of structure, discovery method, location or significance.

WASHINGTON WITCH HUNT—Bert Andrews—*Random House*, 218 p., \$2.50. The case of Mr. Blank who was discharged from the State Department as a "potential security risk" without being told what charges were brought against him is something to alarm every U. S. citizen. The threat to fundamental liberties in this and other cases is reported here by Pulitzer prize winner and chief of the Washington Bureau of the New York Herald Tribune.

Science News Letter, August 14, 1948

ELECTRONICS

Synthetic Mica Suitable For Communications

➤ MAN-MADE MICA, with the electrical characteristics of natural mica, is now being produced in the United States, it was revealed by the U. S. Army and the Navy. Both had a hand in the research program which developed the new synthetic product.

Great quantities of mica are required in America each year in many types of electrical equipment, particularly in condensers and other circuit elements. It is used in large amounts as insulation in electrical

machinery and as a dielectric in electronic circuits. It plays a big part in radio and radar. No domestic deposits of suitable mica have yet been found in America large enough to meet the needs. The volume supply in the past came principally from India and Brazil. The new synthetic may make further importation unnecessary.

The interest of the Army and the Navy in the development of a mica substitute is due to the fact that both are large users of this material in their communications and other equipment. They rate mica as a strategic mineral, one necessary to stockpile for future emergencies if there were no substitute.

Known as fluorine-phlogopite mica, the new synthetic is now being produced on a pilot-plant scale. It has the desirable characteristics of natural mica, including perfect cleavage into thin sheets, good electrical and mechanical properties, and chemical stability. It is expected to replace the muscovite and phlogopite forms of natural mica, the silicate minerals that the United States has been importing in large quantities.

Considerable work has been done in the past few years looking toward the development of a synthetic mica or a mica substitute. Government-sponsored research on mica synthesis was initiated at the Colorado School of Mines in June, 1946, under an Army Signal Corps contract. Later the U. S. Bureau of Mines began synthetic mica pilot-plant work at Norris, Tenn., under a contract with the Office of Naval Research. Owens-Corning-Fiberglas Corporation, serving under a consulting contract, furnished accumulated information gathered in two years of research, in 1945-46, in a mica synthesis program. Other groups also assisted.

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VETERINARY MEDICINE

Brucellosis Attacks Many Veterinarians

➤ A WARNING that the entire veterinary medical profession is threatened by a disease of animals has been sounded by Dr. Thurman B. Rice, professor of public health at Indiana University.

Dr. Rice reports statistics show that half of the veterinarians engaged in large-animal practice have had brucellosis, known as undulant fever in man.

In the central-west, he estimates that as many as 90% of the veterinarians have the disease or have had it.

Hogs are rated the most dangerous source of infection, but cattle, goats, sheep, horses and occasionally dogs may pass on the disease. The germ enters the human body not only through a skin abrasion or the membrane of the eye but also through normal skin.

Research workers handling infected animals "are nearly sure to get the disease," Dr. Rice warns.

Science News Letter, August 14, 1948

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